



DETROIT DISTRICT
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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FEBRUARY 2015 GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL SUMMARY

LAKE SUPERIOR

Lake Superior continued its seasonal decline, with its monthly mean coming in at 601.94 ft in February. This monthly mean level was 9 inches above its level of a year ago, 10 inches above chart datum, and 8 inches above its long-term average (LTA). This current 12-month stretch of above average water levels on the lake was preceded by 15 consecutive years of below average water levels. The Lake Superior basin received precipitation in February that was 25% below average, but experienced 8% above average precipitation over the last 12 months. The Lake Superior level is projected to be 8 to 17 inches above chart datum over the next 6 months. The lake is expected to remain above its level of a year ago through May, but then fall to 1 inch below last year's levels during the summer months. Lake Superior levels are forecast to be 5 to 7 inches above LTA through August.

LAKE MICHIGAN-HURON

Lake Michigan-Huron's February level declined slightly to 579.07 ft, from 579.10 ft in January. Levels remain 9 inches above average, however, due to the previously high levels resulting from wet conditions through the late summer and fall. February precipitation was 61% less than long term average February precipitation. February was the sixth consecutive month with above average water levels after a 15 year stretch of continuously below average conditions. In addition, the lake's level was 19 inches above chart datum and 22 inches above its level of a year ago. Over the next six months, Lake Michigan-Huron is predicted to be 12 to 22 inches above last year's levels, and 8 to 9 inches above LTA through August 2015. In addition, the lake is predicted to be 19 to 31 inches above chart datum over the next 6 months.

LAKE ST. CLAIR

Lake St. Clair's mean water level decreased to 573.29 ft in February from its mean level of 573.98 ft in January. This decrease in level is largely attributed to the buildup of ice impeding the flow in the St. Clair River. This flow restriction lowers the amount of water flowing into Lake St. Clair. The lake's mean level in February was 5 inches above its level of a year ago, but 2 inches below LTA. The lake is projected to be 6 to 9 inches above last year's levels over the next 6 months. Lake St. Clair is expected to be 3 to 10 inches above its LTA from March to August.

LAKE ERIE

In February, Lake Erie's mean level fell from 571.39 ft to 570.96 ft in January. The lake's February mean level was 4 inches above last year's level and 2 inches above its LTA. Lake Erie experienced precipitation in February that was 45% below average, but has received 91% of average precipitation during the past 12 months. The lake is forecasted to be 2 to 4 inches above its level of a year ago through August. Lake Erie is projected to be 0 to 7 inches above its LTA over the next 6 months.

LAKE ONTARIO

Lake Ontario fell from its January level of 244.62 ft to 244.42 ft. The lake's February level was 4 inches lower than its level of a year ago and 4 inches below its LTA. The Lake Ontario basin experienced below average precipitation in February, but has experienced 96% of average precipitation over the past 12 months. Lake Ontario is projected to be 2 to 8 inches below last year's level through August. In addition, the lake is forecasted to be 7 inches below to 1 inches above LTA from March to August.